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# THE Unexplained

MYSTERIES OF MIND SPACE & TIME

**Aliens in the mind**

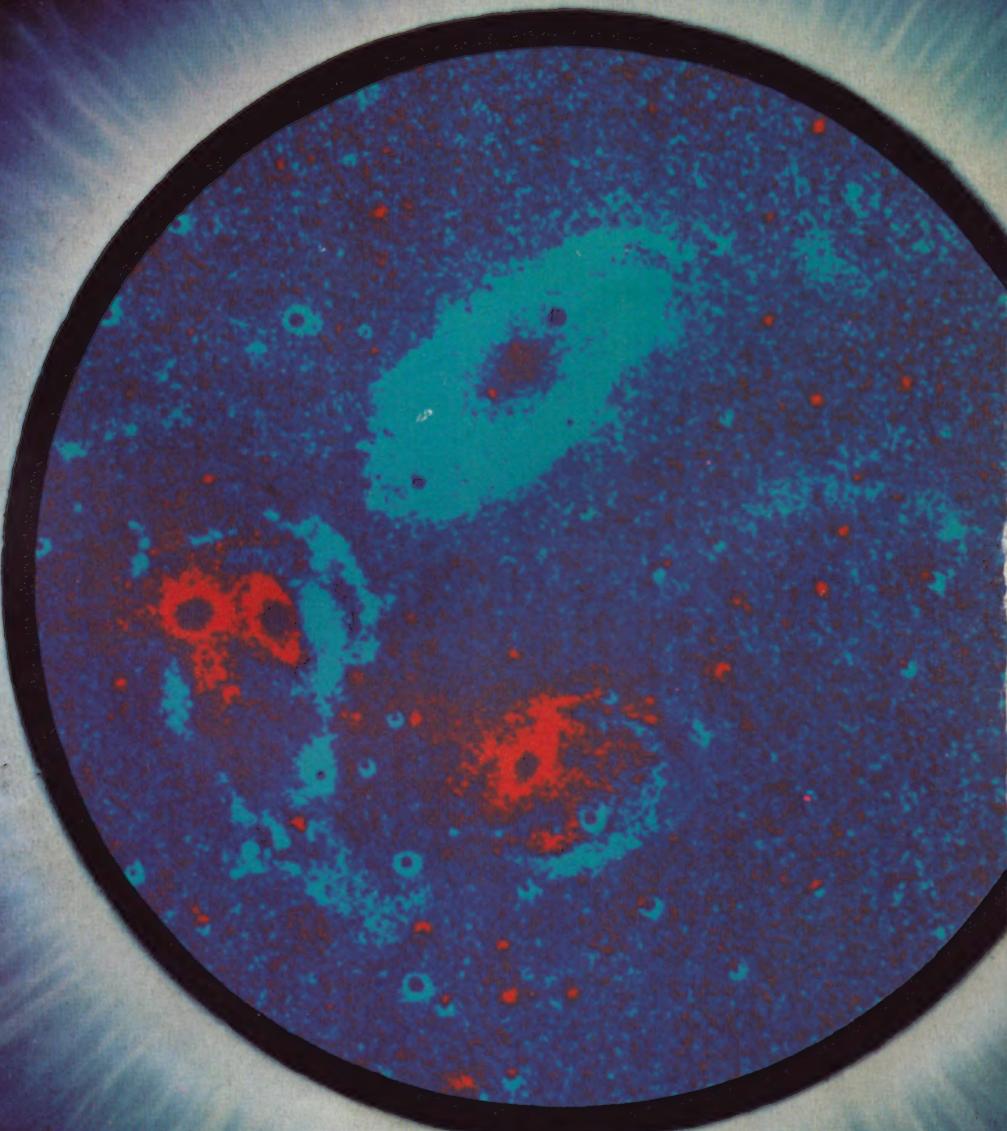
**What killed the dinosaurs?**

**The bookies' nightmare**

**Chancetonbury Ring**

**Timeloops**

**76**



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# THE Unexplained

MYSTERIES OF MIND SPACE & TIME

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## In next week's issue

In **Time loops** we describe one of the most remarkable claims made by a modern scientist – that it is possible to build a working time machine. Our series on **Leys** examines the latest thinking on the subject – and shows how new research reveals that there may be a physical solution to the mystery surrounding these strange lines. In the next part of **Dinosaurs** we describe the cataclysm that, scientists believe, wiped out these remarkable animals. English journalist and eccentric **Comyns Beaumont** believed that Jerusalem was really Edinburgh – and the sinful city of Sodom none other than Bristol! See our special article for more hilarious ideas that put von Däniken to shame! **Chancionbury Ring** concludes by trying to find the factor that links the weird activities in the vicinity of this ancient site.

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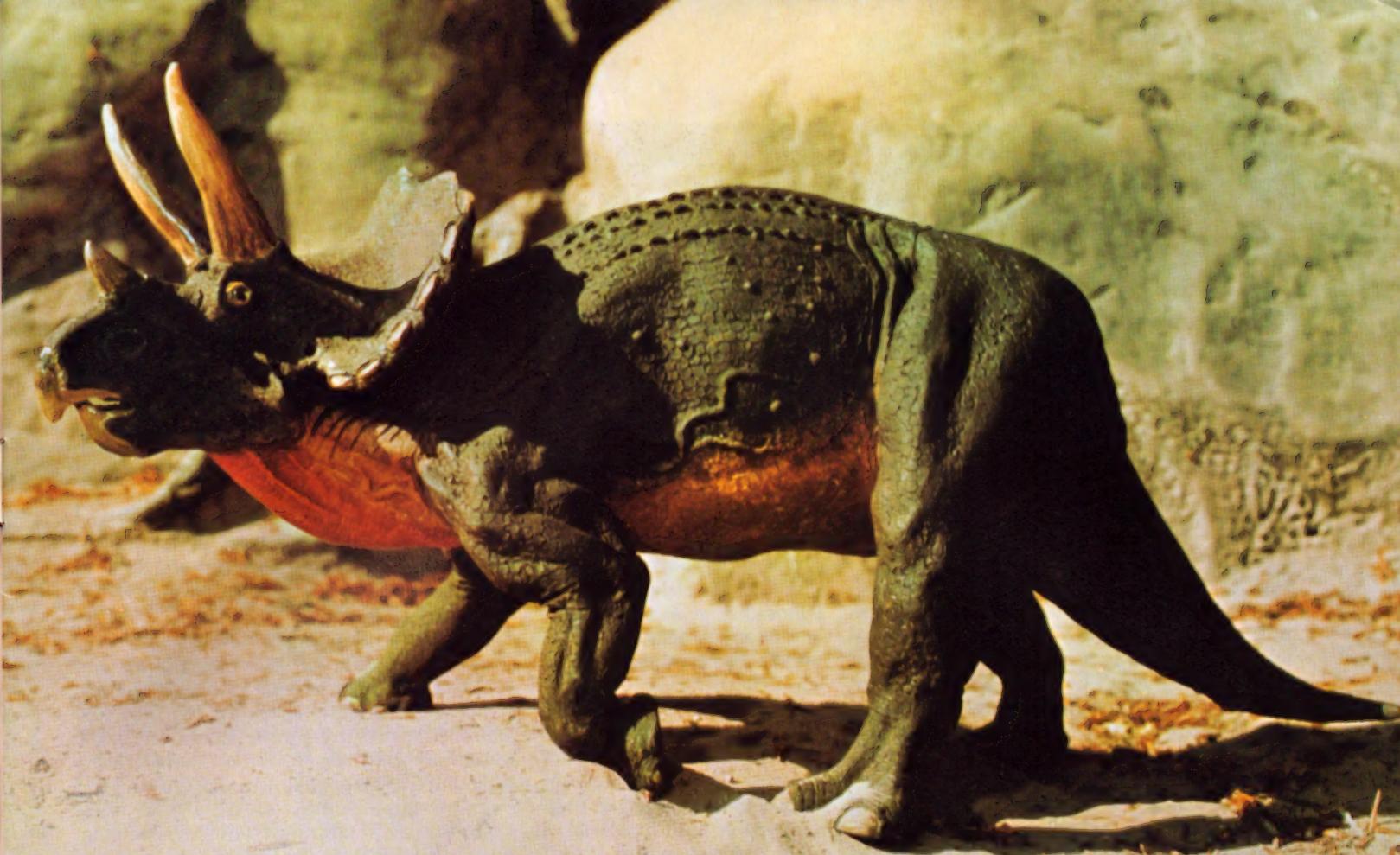
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# What killed the dinosaurs?

**Dinosaurs are usually thought to have been clumsy, slow-witted monsters, doomed to fail in the struggle for life. But, as FRANK SMYTH shows, they flourished for 140 million years before their sudden extinction. What cataclysm wiped them out?**

THE AGE OF THE DINOSAURS, known to science as the Mesozoic era, began about 225 million years ago. Geologists divide its 160 million years into three periods: the Triassic, which lasted about 32 million years, the Jurassic, which lasted about 57 million years, and the Cretaceous, which lasted about 71 million years.

This time span is so vast as to be beyond comprehension, but we can gain some idea of its magnitude if we consider that mankind's ape-like ancestors appeared only within the last 1.5 million years, and *Homo sapiens*, modern Man, has existed for a mere 50,000 years. When the dinosaurs ruled, Man's ancestors were tiny, rodent-like mammals, which probably formed part of the dinosaurs' diet.

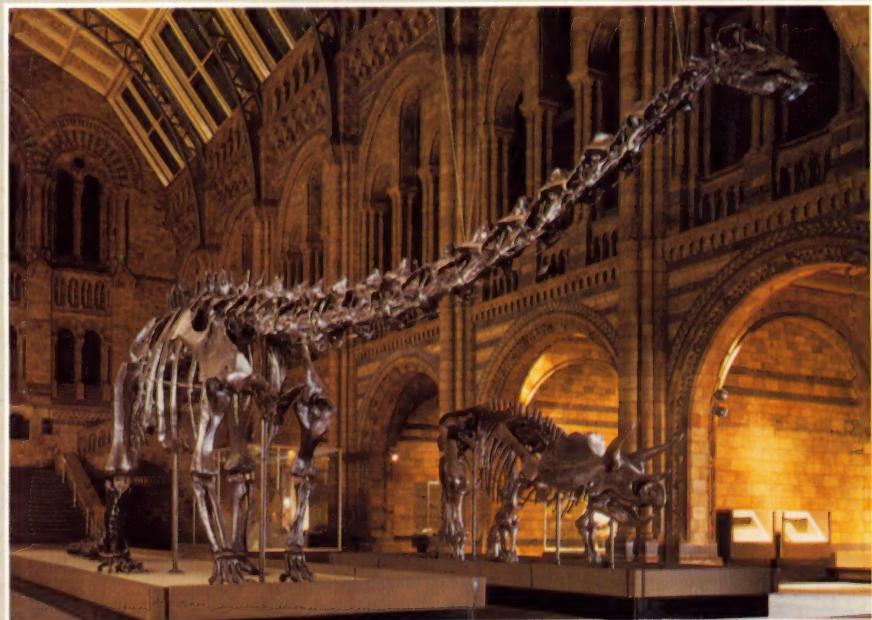
'Dinosaur' means 'terrible lizard', but these great animals were not lizards at all. In the final stages of their development they combined features that are characteristic of

Above: *Triceratops*, one of the later dinosaurs, equipped with three horns and a bony protective frill

Below: the skeleton of *Diplodocus*, which weighed about 10 tonnes in life, dwarfs that of *Triceratops*

present-day reptiles, mammals and birds. They are classed in two great orders: the saurischians ('lizard-hipped creatures') and the ornithischians ('bird-hipped creatures'), named after the distinctive structures of their hip bones.

One group of dinosaurs looked rather like ostriches, but they had stereoscopic vision (both eyes looked forward, giving double



## Dinosaurs

views of a scene and providing three-dimensional vision, as our eyes do). They had fine, finger-like claws capable of delicate handling, and they had large brains. In fact, the brains of some of these creatures were seven times as large as those of modern reptiles, according to Dr Dale Russell of the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Ottawa, Canada. Furthermore, their brains were convoluted, giving them an increased surface area. 'In other words,' says Dr Russell, 'they were as intelligent as primitive man.'

These masterminds of their age walked upright on their hind legs and were about the same height as human beings. But the hundreds of other dinosaur species came in weird and varied shapes and sizes, ranging from the flesh-eating *Cynognathus*, which was about as big as an Alsatian dog, to the 35-tonne herbivorous *Brontosaurus*. Through millions of years of evolution the dinosaurs dominated every part of the Earth except the Antarctic regions. They adapted to extremes of heat and cold, ate fish, meat, herbs and foliage and, in the case of some nimble species, may have had sufficiently swift reflexes to snatch primitive birds in flight.

Suddenly – compared with the length of their tenure of the Earth – these conquering creatures, with their great range of abilities, died out, leaving behind only a few distant cousins such as the crocodiles and turtles. Why did they go? Was it with a bang or a

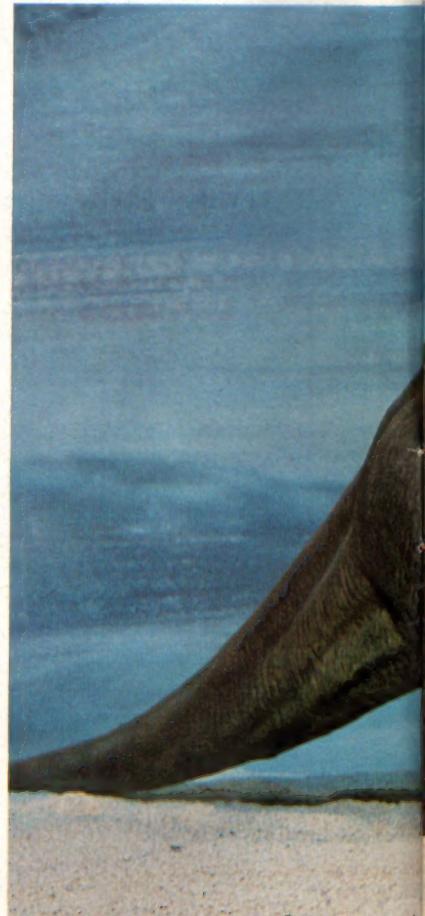
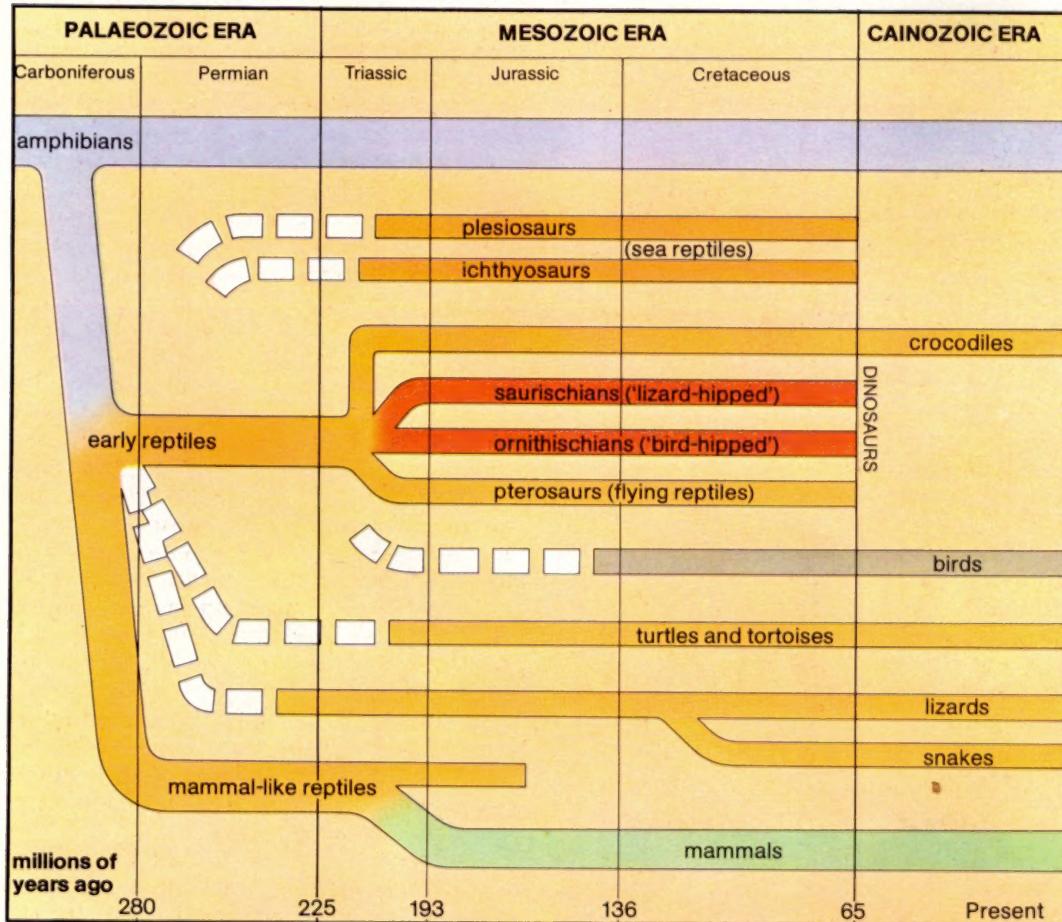
The lineage of the dinosaurs. Ancestors of both reptiles and mammals evolved from amphibians in the Carboniferous period. Some became mammal-like reptiles, while others developed into crocodilians, flying reptiles and dinosaurs in the Triassic period. The mammal-like reptiles vanished, leaving primitive, inconspicuous mammalian descendants, overshadowed by the dominant reptiles. Dinosaur species appeared and disappeared throughout the Mesozoic era, but all vanished in the great extinctions at the end of the Cretaceous period. They may have left descendants, however: some palaeontologists suggest that the birds evolved from one group of saurischians, though the orthodox view is that dinosaurs and birds had common ancestors

whimper? The question has been debated among palaeontologists – the scientists who study fossils – for well over a hundred years, but it is only since the early 1970s that satisfactory answers have been given.

The geological strata of the Earth that date from the Mesozoic era are rich in the remains of the dinosaurs and of the plants, insects, fish and animals that they lived on. From this long-buried debris scientists have been able to build up accurate pictures of the life that flourished during the era.

Like the reptiles, the early dinosaurs evolved from amphibians, sea-dwelling creatures that crawled ashore to lay their eggs. These were amniotic, like a hen's egg: they had a hard, leathery 'shell' that enclosed the embryo in a sac of liquid. They contained a reservoir of yolk too, on which the embryo fed until its limbs were formed and it was ready to emerge.

A variety of beings evolved from these amphibians. One of the most important adaptations in the dinosaurs was in the jaw structure. Generally speaking, the jaws and teeth of reptiles are simple affairs: often the lower jaw consists of two or more loosely articulated bones, enabling the creatures to swallow huge lumps of food that their primitive teeth are incapable of chewing. Fossil remains from the early Triassic period – which are particularly rich in southern Africa and North America – show that the early dinosaurs had developed a single lower



jawbone. The disused extra bones had developed into ossicles, bony plates that make up the structure of the inner ear. The dinosaurs had fairly sophisticated hearing. The teeth, too, had developed from the simple reptilian spike-like form, like crocodiles' teeth, into front incisors, for biting, canines for rending and flat-topped molars for chewing.

Otherwise the varieties of dinosaur had surprisingly little in common with each other. This was largely because of the changing natural conditions of the Mesozoic era and the differing environments in which each variety lived.

### The Earth's changing face

At the beginning of the Triassic period, the climate over about three quarters of the world's surface was warm and even, so that trees and shrubs thrived well inside the areas that now lie in the Arctic Circle. Lush tropical vegetation and swamps resembling those of Florida covered much of Europe, Asia and the Americas – though the land had not yet broken up into the present-day continents. For most of the Jurassic period dinosaurs were able to wander freely over much of the Earth's surface.

Towards the end of the 71-million-year Cretaceous period a mountain-building process termed the Laramide Revolution occurred. The oceans retreated from the plains of North America as ranges such as the



Above: a clutch of eggs laid by *Protoceratops*, ancestor of the horned dinosaurs. Many such nests, containing as many as 18 eggs, have been found in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia

Below: *Brontosaurus* weighed 35 tonnes – yet this colossus had a brain the size of a duck's egg



Rockies were forced into being. Much of Europe and Asia consisted of large islands and finger-like promontories. At this time many modern forms of plant life appeared, including both conifers – such as fir and pine trees – and deciduous trees – elm, oak and beech – as well as grasses and shrubs familiar today.

An early, tentative theory suggested that the changes in the Earth's foliage had affected the dinosaurs' diet, rendering the huge beasts sluggish and less able to take care of themselves: especially by rendering them less well-equipped to fend off the little rodent ancestors of Man, who could pillage their eggs and thus bring about the giants' slow extinction.

This idea was based on the reptilian characteristics of the dinosaurs. Some modern reptiles, such as the Florida alligator, become inefficient when the temperature changes by as little as 5°F (3°C); a greater variation can kill them.

But modern research has shown that the dinosaurs can be only superficially equated with modern reptiles. Some, like the giant plant-eaters *Brachiosaurus* and *Brontosaurus*, were almost certainly warm-blooded, while even the scaly meat-eaters, such as *Tyrannosaurus*, with their skulls 4 feet (1.5 metres) long, formidable brains and savage claws, horns and tails, may have been more mammal than reptile. The most reptilian of the dinosaurs, such as *Stegosaurus*, had triangular plates on their backs, which may have acted as efficient thermostats to control body heat. So heat, or the lack of it, was probably not the direct cause of the death of the dinosaurs.

In any case, how could a climatic variation of a few degrees affect such species as the plesiosaurs, marine leviathans that numbered among their species *Kronosaurus*, with a 12-foot (3.7-metre) skull?

A 19th-century theory looked to the sheer bulk of the majority of dinosaurs for a solution to the problem. In essence it



suggested that the hypophysis, the gland controlling growth, went berserk and increased the size of the dinosaurs to an impossible degree. The known characteristics of some of the big vegetarians, *Brontosaurus* of North America and *Brachiosaurus* of Africa and America, seem at first to support this view. Both were between 60 and 80 feet (18 and 24 metres) long, and weighed about 40 tonnes. Their legs were short and stumpy, and powerful enough to enable them to move about on land, but they may have preferred to spend most of their time in the swamps and lakes, like the modern hippopotamus, where their massive weight was buoyed up by the water.

These creatures fed on marine plant life, although their long, slender necks enabled them to supplement their diet with foliage from trees. At the end of the neck sat a ludicrously small head with weak jaws, housing a brain the size of a duck egg. The body was in fact controlled by a secondary 'brain' – a swelling of the spinal cord located in the pelvic region.

*Brontosaurus* and *Brachiosaurus* were, in effect, eating machines, laboriously consuming around one third of a tonne of plant life a day. According to the 'giantism' theory they spent most of their energy eating, and less energy remained for anything else – even the act of reproduction.

However, 20th-century research has shown that the supposed disadvantages of giantism were often advantages, particularly in reptile-like creatures. Giantism not only affords protection from all but the largest and fiercest predators, but the increased ratio of body weight to surface area helps the beast to conserve body heat, thus cutting down its expenditure of energy.

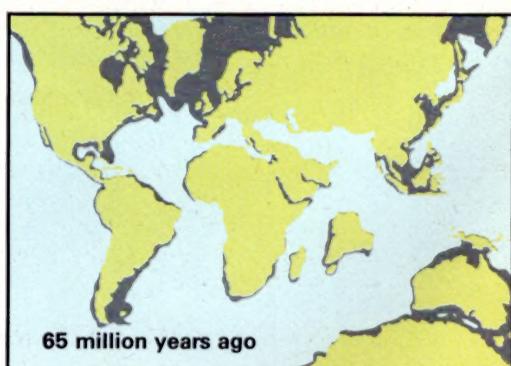
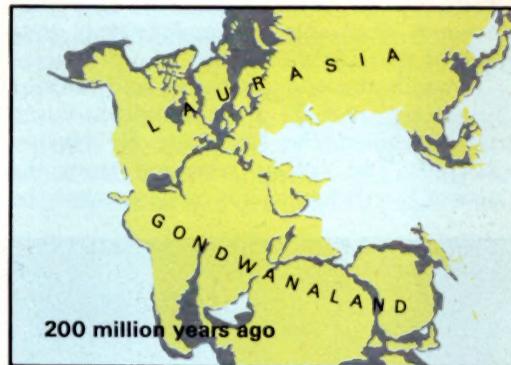
So the problem of the dinosaurs' extinction is not solved by the notion that they were too slow, clumsy and weak-brained to cope with nimbler competitors. This idea will not explain the disappearance of creatures such as *Brontosaurus*, which had flourished for millions of years; still less will it explain the passing of the fierce meat-eating dinosaurs. *Allosaurus* was typical of these: it was about 35 feet (10.5 metres) long and moved on powerful hind legs, with its body counterbalanced by a heavy tail, which could also be used as a club. Its forelimbs were savagely clawed, and its large jaws were equipped with ferocious teeth.

Even more formidable was *Tyrannosaurus rex*, about 40 feet (12 metres) long, standing 20 feet (6 metres) high, and weighing about 7 tonnes. All its armament was in its head, which was equipped with double rows of sabre-like teeth, 6 inches (15 centimetres) long. *Tyrannosaurus* may have had impressive brain power, too.

The other order of dinosaurs, the ornithischians, included some species that possessed well-developed defences. They

Above: the marine cousins of the dinosaurs. A plesiosaur, about 6 feet (2 metres) long, dives for its prey in the foreground of this Jurassic seascape. In the distance a school of air-breathing ichthyosaurs leaps from the water. Pterosaurs, flying reptiles that were also related to the dinosaurs, swoop on fish at the right

Right: the break-up of the continents. In Triassic times (top), the world's land formed one super-continent. (The darker areas are continental shelves, which were not covered by sea at all times.) Dinosaurs roamed the world. Towards the end of the Jurassic period (centre), Laurasia and Gondwanaland had started to break apart and the Atlantic had appeared. When the dinosaurs died out (bottom), the continents had largely assumed their present form



included *Stegosaurus*, the 'plated lizard', which appeared in the Jurassic period. It was a four-footed herbivore, which carried a powerful armament in its tail in the form of a four-pronged spike. Along its spine it sported a double row of triangular plates, which served, probably, as a thermostat, like the 'sail' of *Pelycosaurus*.

Whether fast-moving predator or slow-moving heavily armoured herbivore, the dinosaurs included some of the most successful and best-adapted animals that the world has seen. Whatever wiped them out, it was not any inherent deficiency in their design.

This fact was emphasised when, with the advance of palaeontology, it was realised that the dinosaurs had not suffered alone at the end of the Mesozoic era. Much marine life had died out at the same time. For example the ammonites, an ancient type of mollusc, which sometimes grew to the diameter of a tractor wheel, disappeared at this time.

It was suggested that the ammonites had formed a major part of the diet of plesiosaurs, and that the disappearance of one led to the extinction of the other. But this argument

Right: *Tyrannosaurus*, about 16 feet (5 metres) tall, 40 feet (12 metres) long and 7 tonnes in weight. This dinosaur was the largest carnivore that has ever lived

merely pushed the problem one stage back. What caused the death of the ammonites?

Palaeobotanists came up with another strand to the problem. At the very end of the Mesozoic era, about 50 per cent of all plant life had vanished too. Significantly, as it was to prove, plant life of all kinds had been worst hit in a broad band between the Urals and the Rockies.

It became apparent that no less than 70 per cent of all life on Earth – plants, insects, fish, birds, reptiles and animals – perished in this great wave of extinctions heralding the Tertiary period. What influence could have had this wide-ranging effect? Was it extraterrestrial in origin?

The Fundamentalist Church of America, which repudiates Darwin's theories, especially insofar as they link mankind to the apes, believes that it has the answer. It was, literally, an act of God that wiped out the dinosaurs, in order to promote the development of the mammals, and especially Man.

To scientists such theories are absurd, explaining nothing. But nonetheless we now know that, had the dinosaurs not perished, it is extremely unlikely that the mammals would ever have evolved beyond the level of the rodents – and, therefore, unlikely that human beings would have established their commanding position on the globe.

On page 1526: the cataclysm that sounded the dinosaurs' death knell

Right: a bed of fossilised ammonites. These ancient molluscs resembled the modern nautilus, and one species could grow to a diameter of over 6 feet (2 metres). They became extinct, like so many other life forms, including the dinosaurs, at the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago



Below: the sub-tropical landscape of southern England, about 120 million years ago. This *Iguanodon* was herbivorous and was equipped with a beak rather than incisor teeth





# Creatures from inner space?

**Have beings from other worlds met and talked with people of Earth – or are they creations of the subconscious mind?**  
**JENNY RANDLES continues her examination of the riddles presented by the most baffling type of UFO report: contact cases**

HYPNOSIS IS STILL A CONTROVERSIAL subject. Its significance becomes even more obscure when it is used to recover the blocked memories of a witness in a UFO contact case. Experts dispute the origin of the images that come to the mind of such a person in a hypnotic trance. Is the subject's psychic potential boosted? Does he become able to dredge information from the collective unconscious, potentially becoming aware of everything that has ever happened anywhere at all? Or is the abduction memory that comes to the witness simply a re-spinning by his mind of a story once read and now forgotten – the re-creation of a modern myth? For certainly alien beings and their spacecraft have attained the commanding status of myths of our time, whatever the reality that lies behind them (see page 426). Or does regression hypnosis simply free the

memory so that the barriers to recall can be hurdled and the 'missing' period relived? There is a very difficult problem of assessment whenever a witness in a type C case retrieves a 'memory'. What is its true significance?

A case similar to that of the Day family (see page 1481) occurred in June 1978, again in England. A young couple, their children and another adult were involved. The alleged abduction took place during a car journey in Oxfordshire; again there were many similarities with other abduction stories: for example, three-dimensional ('holographic') shows were displayed to the witnesses. But the story as a whole was quite unlike any of the 100 or more other type C cases that have been documented by ufologists. The aliens looked humanoid – indeed, very like those seen by John and Sue Day – and they told of the origin of their race on Earth and their emigration to the planet Janos. Now a horrific natural disaster had precipitated their flight back to Earth. They wish to move in with us . . . a million or so refugees from this cosmic catastrophe.

What is interesting about this case is, partly, how it resembles in outline other incidents, such as the Day case (which had received publicity in the British press). But

Above: life on Jupiter, as imagined by the astronomer Carl Sagan. Herds of floating creatures, little more than living gas-bags, drift above the towering clouds of frozen ammonia crystals in the planet's atmosphere. Some of these beings are visible in the foreground and at the left. It is possible that living creatures have evolved to this level on many planets, but beings capable of building spaceships are much less probable

Right: Gaynor Sunderland, a Welsh girl who has reported numerous encounters with aliens. On one occasion two strange beings, allegedly from another planet, visited her – and told her that they were products of her own subconscious mind. Other members of Gaynor's family have reported alien contacts

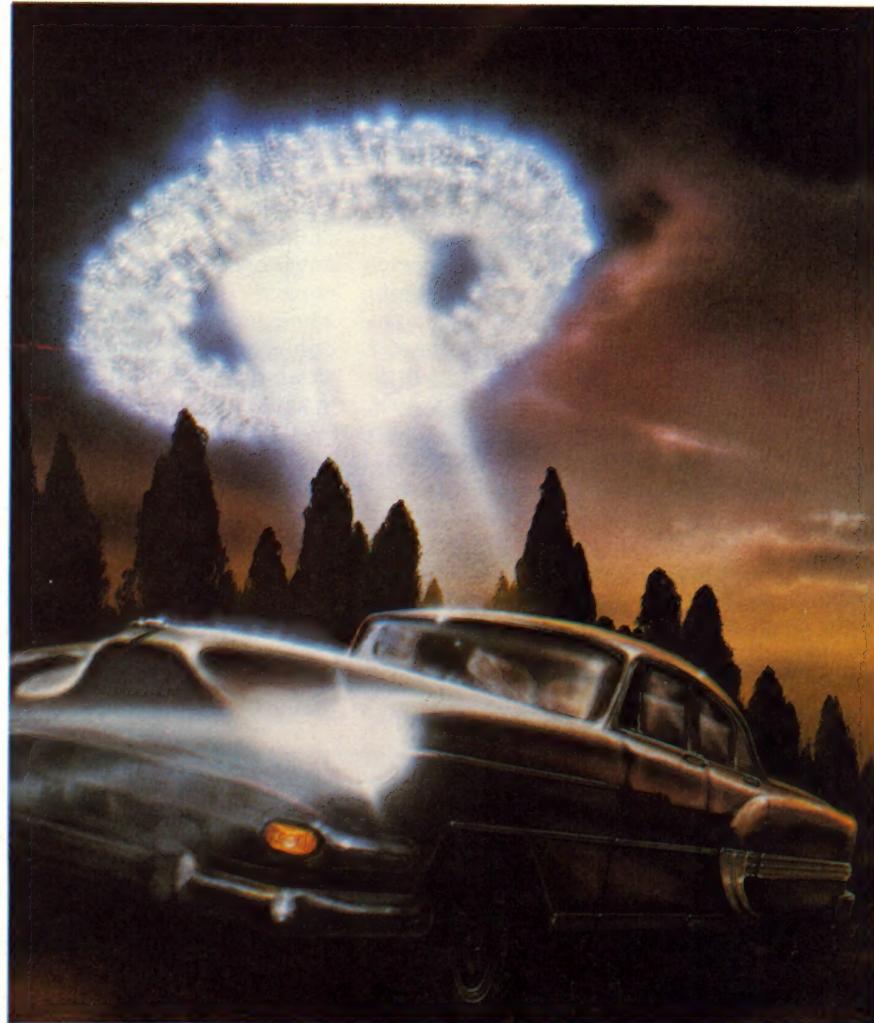
more importantly, the interests, attitudes and manner of questioning of the investigators found their way into the story that was told – as if the hypnotised witnesses were picking up 'cues' from the investigators and fitting them into their accounts as they told them. This is rather like the game in which you are given a series of objects – say, a book, a pen, a candlestick and a toy balloon – and are asked to use your imagination to weave a story in which they all figure.

This curious problem is further illustrated by the experiences of young Gaynor Sunderland, from Oakenholt in North Wales. She and her family had many weird encounters, including contacts with aliens who, again, looked rather like the ones met by John and Sue Day. (See page 1188.)

On one occasion Gaynor was having trouble sleeping because she kept seeing two aliens – one male, one female. (Later she found that they were named Pars and Arna.) I was then investigating the case and I suggested to her mother, Marion Sunderland, that she could tell Gaynor a white lie. Gaynor was told: 'If you put a loaded camera in the bedroom the aliens will not come because they do not like having their pictures taken.' A couple of nights later Gaynor was allegedly abducted to another world and taken on a tour of a city there by Arna and Pars. She was told that she was not really there: the experience was in her subconscious mind, a kind of dream. Yet the aliens maintained: 'We did not come to you because of the camera.'

It is highly paradoxical that an alien entity should first admit to being a product of the unconscious mind and then claim to dislike being photographed. It seems that Gaynor's mind somehow wove the idea concerning the camera into her experience of the trip to another world. But she remained convinced of the reality of her experience and said it was far more vivid than a typical dream.

We sometimes find that the initial stimulus for an abduction experience is an event that can be explained straightforwardly.



Above: the encounter of Betty and Barney Hill with a mysterious craft in September 1961 is a classic contact case. The Hills' recollections of being taken on board the craft emerged later, first in dreams and subsequently in regression hypnosis

This casts doubt on the remainder of the account provided by the witnesses. One of the most famous type C cases involved an American couple, Betty and Barney Hill, who were returning from holiday across the mountains of New England during September 1961. A mysterious 'craft' followed them and then came down nearby; Barney Hill watched it through binoculars before driving away in panic. All the classic features of such incidents were there: a psychic witness (Betty had experienced many types of weird phenomena throughout her life); a blank in their memory of events; strange dreams afterwards; and finally, under hypnosis, memories of abduction and medical examination on board the UFO. Yet it has been argued very convincingly that the light in the sky that marked the beginning of the whole train of events was nothing more than the planet Jupiter.

This does not in itself tell us anything about the reality of the experience; witnesses often link completely unassociated events in their recollections of some incident, simply because those events happened to occur at roughly the same time. But it is just part of the process by which human beings misperceive events, distort their memories of them, and come to mistaken conclusions



## Alien contacts

about them later. We should bear this complex process of interpretation and misinterpretation in mind as we consider the appearance presented by aliens and their craft in contact reports.

What should we expect extra-terrestrial life forms to look like? This is a very hard question to answer, since our only examples of life come from one planet – the Earth. Yet when we see the amazing range of species hosted by our environment and recognise that mankind is just a link in a long evolutionary chain in which an even greater diversity of forms has existed, we find little reason to suppose that alien beings should look like us. Admittedly the humanoid form is well-adapted to a wide range of environments on the Earth's surface, and it may well be common on other Earth-like planets throughout the Galaxy; but the human form is presumably not a necessary condition for dominance. Since other worlds would have a great range of habitats, and local conditions would vary greatly, life there would undoubtedly be equally diverse. Carl Sagan, the eminent astronomer, has even proposed

Six types of alien being reported by contact case witnesses. These pictures should be viewed as symbolising the various categories, not as accurately portraying any particular entity encountered by a witness. The majority of beings reported are human or humanoid in form – and also remarkably human in their clothing and technology. 'Monsters' are rare. (The 'apparitional' entities come under the heading of type D – 'psychic' – encounters.) Images such as these are firmly stamped into popular consciousness by science fiction films and comics, which may thereby influence perceptions during contact experiences

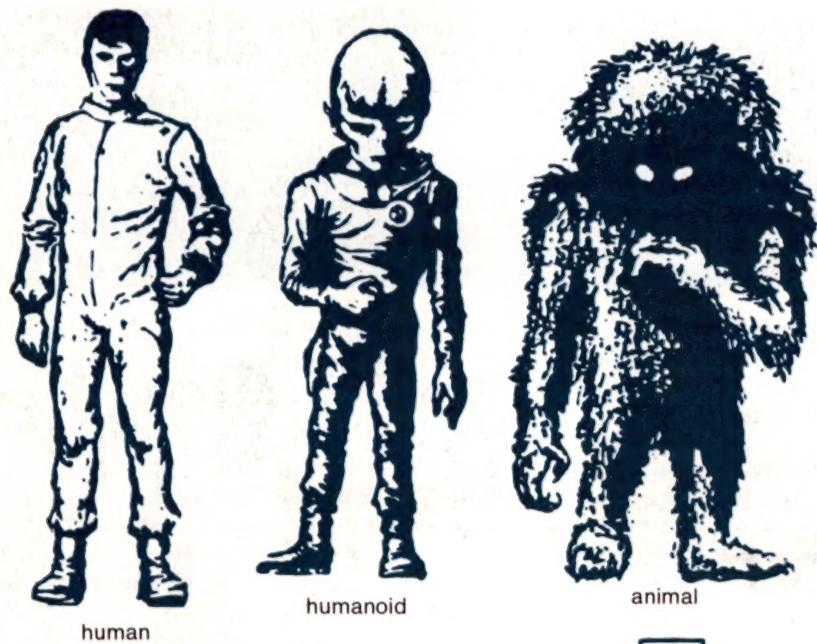
usually about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet (1 metre); medium – 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 metres); and large – up to about 7 or 8 feet (2.1 to 2.4 metres). In type B ('bedroom visitors') encounters, the entities witnessed are fairly normal, with a slight tendency to larger sizes. In no fewer than 41 per cent of type A cases, on the other hand, the entities seen are small. There are other fairly common features, such as large eyes, fair skins, and angular features. But other factors, such as clothes, show great diversity.

One might not consider this to be a problem. After all, people on Earth wear a wide variety of clothes, and human beings of different ages, races and sexes are extraordinarily diverse. But the difficulty with contact cases is more fundamental: the aliens as described are just too much like us. They usually speak the language of the contactee, whether it be English or Serbo-Croat. Nearly always they speak it faultlessly, and without any noticeable accent. This means, of course, that they are speaking in the same accent as the contactee himself (a vital, but usually overlooked, point).

Their fashions, too, are far too similar to those on Earth. It seems nonsensical to imagine that an alien from a planet light years away should wear a cloak buttoned at the neck and sport a badge on the breast of a jumpsuit-style garment. Yet this is what contactees claim, and it is all too reminiscent of the limited imaginations (or wardrobe budgets) of science-fiction film-makers.

If a witness asks for the origins of an alien, he is almost invariably told that the entity comes from space. In the earliest contacts the aliens' home planets belonged to our solar system – Mars, Venus, Saturn and so on. Now we know that humanoid life on these worlds is impossible, and present-day contactees are told the aliens come from planets circling distant stars. As yet, of course, science knows little about the very existence of such planets, let alone their suitability for life.

What is it like inside an alien craft? The witnesses' answers to this question also raise



human

humanoid

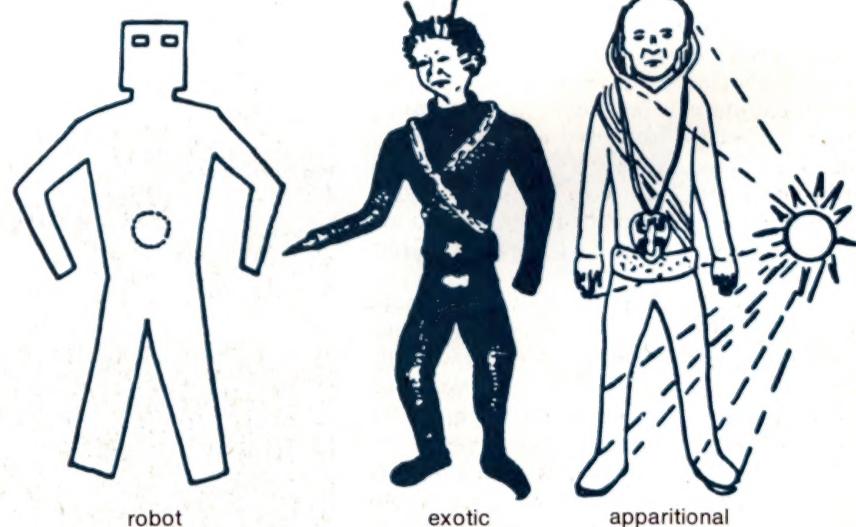
animal

possible life forms capable of surviving on Jupiter: such as living balloons in the oceans of water that may exist in the warm depths of the planet, below the perpetually frozen clouds that we see.

The last thing we would expect is a menagerie of alien races looking more or less like us – and yet, according to contactees, this is precisely what we do find.

Only 7 per cent of contact cases involve creatures that are not humanoid. Such beings as the giant white maggots that crawled across a road in Yssandon, France, in 1960, during a UFO sighting, are rare.

There are three distinct groupings among the humanoids that form the bulk of the data: small – below 5 feet (1.5 metres) tall, and



robot

exotic

apparitional

grave questions about the nature of their experience. Imagine a Stone Age man transported through time and taken onto the flight deck of a Concorde airliner. The instruments and controls would be quite incomprehensible to him. How could he possibly describe what he saw in any intelligible way, knowing nothing of the purpose and importance of what he was seeing? This would be the predicament of any Earth-dweller taken inside an alien starship.

Yet these amazingly advanced visitors, who traverse interstellar space at a whim, apparently do so in spaceships that would not look out of place in one of our engineering museums. They use levers and valves, wires, and old-fashioned bulky computers. They have flashing lights, in the manner of *Star Trek* and *Doctor Who*. They are slow in catching up with our primitive technology. They are just getting round to using lasers and holograms (which they did not have before we did), and they do not as yet have the liquid crystal displays that are now standard on our watches and calculators. What is more, their spaceships are always breaking down . . .

Not infrequently the aliens enlist the help of Earth-dwellers to sort out their problems. Once they asked an eight-year-old boy to fix their propulsion unit. Evidently the origin of all this is not the face-value explanation beloved of the alien spacecraft theorists.

#### Under alien eyes

Once the contactees are aboard, the aliens usually carry out a medical examination. Taking blood samples is an integral part of this. The Irish ufologist John Hind points out that the doctor is the symbol of authority who plays the greatest role in the lives of many people. There seem to be significant resemblances between these examinations by aliens and the contactees' previous experience of medical treatment. One Canadian abduction appeared to feature a replay of an appendectomy that the witness had earlier undergone.

The memory blocks in type C cases present an interesting problem. If aliens can suppress memories, why do they do it in such an ineffective way? The memories usually filter through spontaneously and are easily retrievable in full by hypnosis. Why block them at all? Unless the memory block in fact works successfully in most cases – implying that there are thousands of people who are abducted and have no inkling of the fact afterwards.

Whatever the reason for these memory blocks, the lapse of time between the original occurrence and its subsequent recall severely impedes the investigation of the case. And this, of course, may be the most significant function that the memory loss serves.

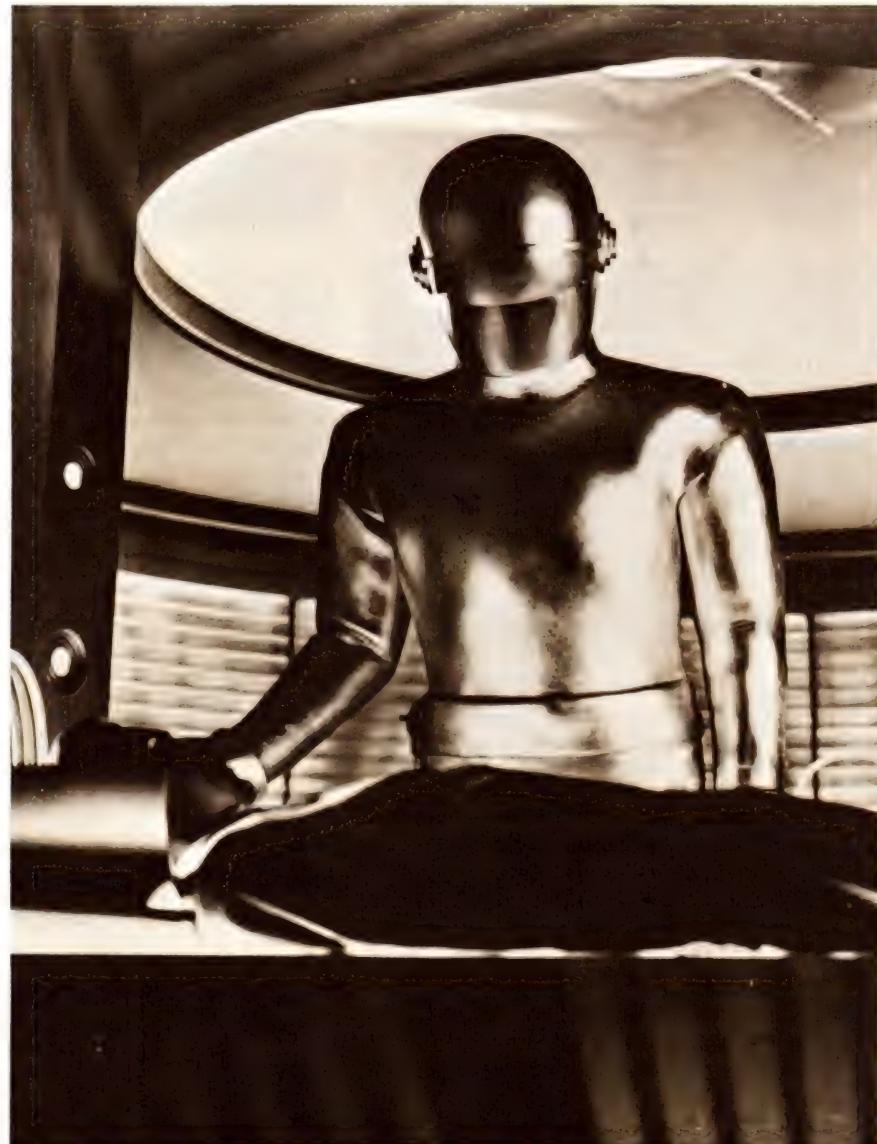
When aliens give us messages they are almost always of one form: warnings about the future of the Earth, with hints of nuclear

war and impending doom. If only we were sometimes given something startling and original – a new scientific theory, a helpful invention, a cure for cancer. But no; we are told that, because of our nuclear tests, 'the balance of the Universe is being disturbed.'

Occasionally there is some light relief. In spring 1978 a Red Army officer was abducted by the shores of the Pyrogovskoye Lake in Russia. Once he had got used to his humanoid hosts, he suggested they ought to toast this cross-cultural contact with a suitable drink. They did not understand. So he sketched out the chemical structure of alcohol, and the aliens retired and immediately made some. 'How is it that such a highly developed civilisation does not use something like this?' the Russian asked. 'Maybe if we had used it we would not be so highly developed,' was the response.

A teetotal message in the form of a joke makes a welcome change from the usual run of communications from other worlds.

*Can these strange meetings be dismissed as mere hallucinations? See page 1546*



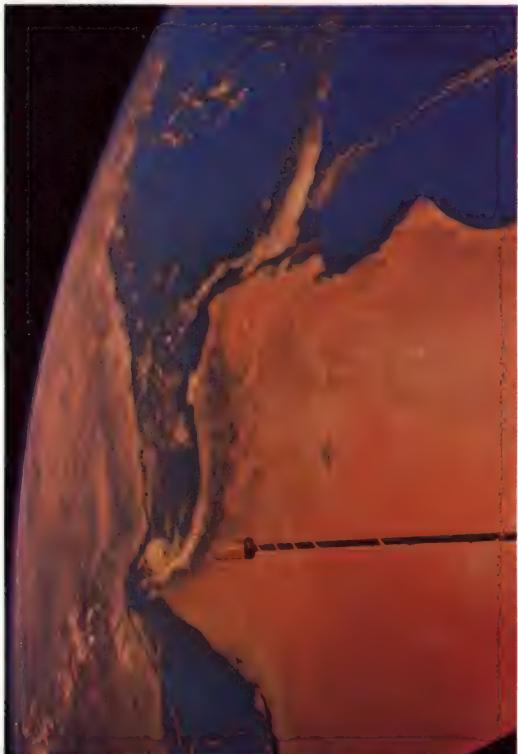
**Most of us believe that time flows along steadily 'like an ever-rolling stream'. But modern science is discovering that the reality may be far more complex – and that time travel may be physically possible. JOHN GRIBBIN reports**

WE ARE ALL TIME TRAVELLERS, moving a certain distance in time with every full rotation of the Earth – a distance that is generally shared by everyone else. That is the reality of our everyday lives – but who has not speculated on the possibility of varying this steady progress, so that we either speed up while everything around us seems to move more slowly, or somehow drag our feet so that everything hurries by while we are left behind? And what of the possibility of travel backwards down that same road, to visit the past and even, perhaps, to alter it? Even if physical time travel is impossible, or impracticable, what about the possibility of communication across time, in the form of dreams, visions and ghosts from the past?

Surprisingly, perhaps, science does acknowledge the possibility of physical time travel, in certain circumstances. This, however, demands a new way of looking at reality. To provide a bridge between our everyday experience of time rolling steadily forward and the bizarre possibilities that stem from abandoning this common-sense view, it is best to look first at some of the puzzles and paradoxes inherent in the possibility of time travel. The discovery of a paradox, to the unimaginative, demonstrates



## From time to time

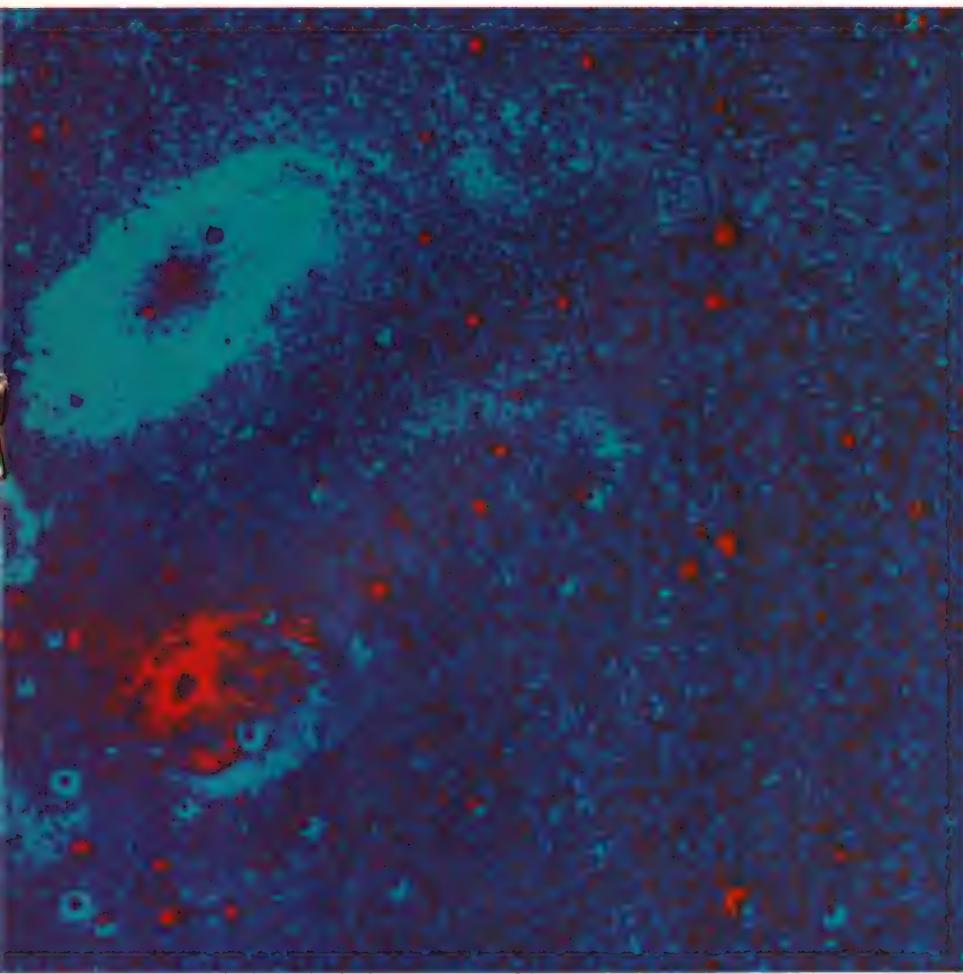


Science is based on the notion of causality: that events follow their causes – a bullet leaves the gun *after* you pull the trigger, not before. But what if, seeing the bullet in flight (above), you were able to travel back in time and prevent the trigger being pulled? Such problems have led some scientists to reject the possibility of time travel. Yet one day the invention of a working time machine may provide as forceful a refutation of their view as this space photograph of the Earth (left) does of the idea, held by most medieval scholars until the 13th century, that the Earth was flat.

that time travel is impossible. To the truly imaginative, however, a paradox is a challenge to find a more radical solution.

Scientists have had to become accustomed to doing without common sense. The idea of a steady flow of time is already outmoded by experiments involving particles that travel at speeds close to the speed of light, under conditions where Einstein's theory of relativity, far removed from the usual world of common sense, provides the best description of how the Universe works. Time, like space, is elastic, not rigid, and Einstein's description involves a blending together in which time and space are seen as two sides of the same coin, a coin dubbed 'space-time' (see page 42). Both time and space can be stretched and squeezed, depending on circumstances, and time can be traded for space as long as the appropriate total balance is maintained. This is all solid, sober scientific fact.

Relativity theory is confirmed by the direct measurement of what happens to subatomic particles whirled at huge speeds inside modern 'atom-smasher' machines – accelerators. It is fact, not speculation, that such a



Above: an image-processed photograph of the Stephan's Quintet group of galaxies. Scientists believe that time becomes distorted near large, dense masses – such as stars or black holes – making time travel possible

Right: a Van de Graaff electrostatic accelerator at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, Oxfordshire, England, used to speed subatomic particles to high velocities.

Experiment has shown that such particles have longer lives than their stationary counterparts – so that, for them, time passes more slowly

particle has a longer lifetime than a stationary counterpart; and it is fact that an astronaut sent on a journey at a speed that is a sizeable fraction of the speed of light – 186,000 miles per second (300,000 kilometres per second) – ages less than the rest of us left behind on Earth.

Another way to stretch time, entirely within accepted modern scientific thinking, involves sitting in a strong gravitational field – the sort of gravitational field you might get near a sizeable black hole. This does not necessitate travelling through the black hole, just sitting in its gravitational field and watching the Universe go by, seemingly at a speeded-up rate. Both tricks are forms of time travel – they get the intrepid astronaut into the future ‘faster’ than the usual rate. But if he doesn’t like what he finds there, there is no way home. Time may not be a *steadily* flowing stream, but even within the framework of modern science it is usually regarded as a one-way street. Hurrying forward may, just, be possible; bucking the stream and swimming back into the past just isn’t on. The reason why such possibilities are dismissed lies in the existence of certain paradoxes. And the best way to get some idea of the paradoxes and possibilities is to look in the pages of science fiction.

The key to the discussion is causality – the seemingly logical assumption that events

always follow their causes, in an orderly procession. A bullet leaves the gun *after* the trigger is pulled, not before; the results of the 3.15 at Ascot reach us only *after* the race is run, not in time for us to be able to rush round to the betting shop and make a killing. The logical implication is that if time travel involves violation of causality, then it must be impossible. If a theory tells us we can commit suicide, *then* go to a restaurant and enjoy a good dinner then, the argument goes, there must be something wrong with the theory. This is not a scientific proof or disproof. It is a matter of philosophy and logical argument – and the Universe may yet hold a few surprises for logicians.

But the science-fiction philosophers have their own answers to these paradoxes, and their version of the debate highlights two possibilities – branches and loops in time. The hoariest example of a time travel paradox, science fiction or philosophy, concerns a traveller who goes back in time and, wittingly or unwittingly, prevents the birth of the person who would have been his grandfather. If so, he could never have been born himself; so it must be the case that the grandfather *was* born, after all; so it *was* possible for our hero to go back in time to prevent the birth of his ancestor . . . and so on. The existence of the paradox is seen by many people as proof that time travel is impossible. Just as nature was once said to ‘abhor a vacuum’, now we might say that she ‘abhors time travel’. But it is very easy to





Above: Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In his novel *Behold the man*, Michael Moorcock describes a fanatical Christian who journeys back to the time of Christ. He sees no sign of the Jesus described in the gospels. As he tries to tell people the gospel story, he finds himself playing out the role of Christ – thus making it possible, 2000 years later, for a religious fanatic to become inspired by the story and, travelling back in time, to re-enact a story he himself has created

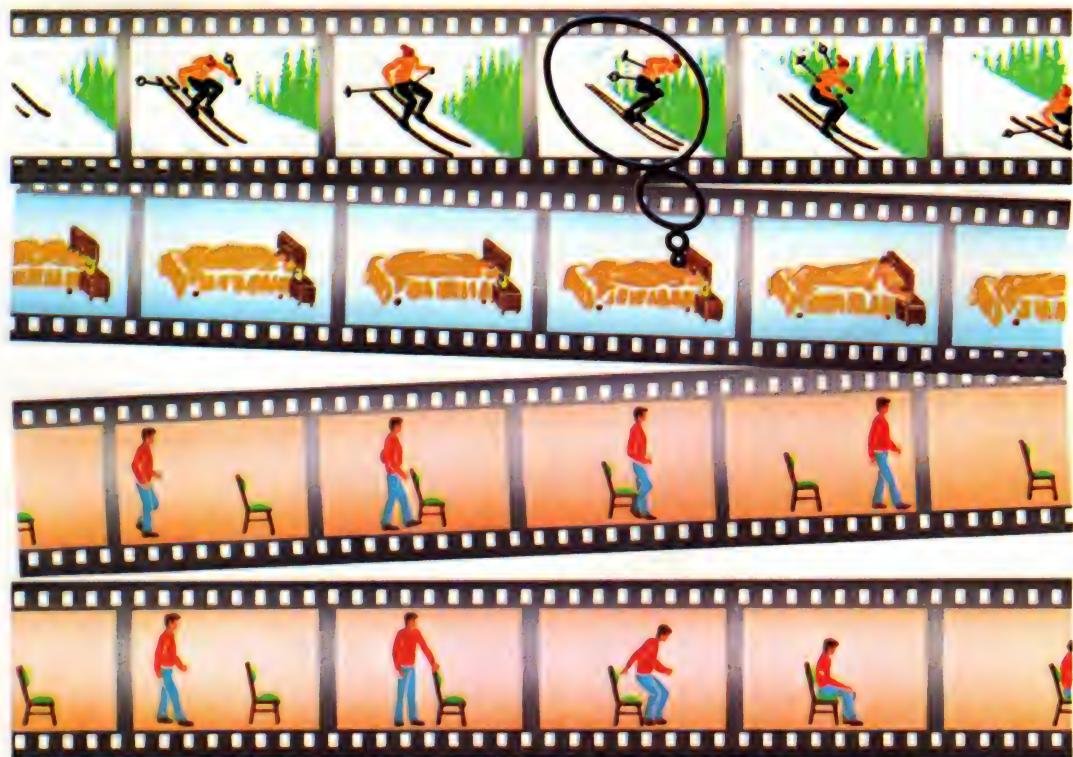
Right: one philosophical theory of time sees all possible combinations of events as somehow running parallel to our own. Thus everything that can possibly be imagined to happen *does* happen – somewhere along the infinite array of parallel worlds. Some of these may differ from our normal, everyday existence only by a single detail; others may be quite fantastic. It has been suggested by some theorists that both dreams and paranormal events – such as this psychic warning of a mining disaster to Andrew Jackson Davis (far right) – could be 'leaks' of information from parallel worlds into our own

imagine resolutions to this simple paradox in which the grandfather is both born and not born, the grandson both exists and does not exist. The simplest answer is that the effects of the time traveller's activities are already rooted in the fabric of time and space – his visit to the past cannot change the present because that visit is already part of history.

Michael Moorcock developed the theme in his novel *Behold the man*. In this, the time traveller is a disturbed individual with a tendency to religious mania, who journeys back to the time of Jesus to view the crucifixion. His time machine is destroyed

beyond repair, and he finds no trace of the Jesus described in the Bible. Inexorably, as he attempts to tell people about the Jesus he came to see, he is drawn into the role of Jesus, playing out the events he remembers from the Bible, up to and including the crucifixion. So history is created, and the Bible stories are written down, ensuring that in 2000 years time a certain individual will travel back in time to close the loop, like the snake that eats its own tail.

This resolution of the paradox sees time as fixed in some greater fabric, with ourselves almost literally merely actors playing out predetermined roles on the stage of space-time. The alternative resolution of the paradox sees space-time as infinitely variable, with each of us master of his or her own destiny to an extent few people ever dream of. Again, an example from science fiction makes the point. In *Lest darkness fall*, L. Sprague de Camp's hero is a 20th-century man who is mysteriously deposited in sixth-century Italy and averts the Dark Ages single-handed. The story is hokum; but the author's explanation is that, having 'slipped down the trunk' of the tree of history, the hero has created a new branch, a new line of history growing out as a result of his introduction of 20th-century ideas into a sixth-century environment. With only slight modifications, this idea becomes the respectable philosophical concept of parallel universes, worlds running alongside one another in some sense, with an infinite number of variations on the theme of history. If you go back and kill your grandfather, the argument runs, you have also slipped 'sideways' into a parallel reality where the grandfather always was killed by an intruder



from elsewhere (and elsewhere). So when you come home to find history unchanged, don't be surprised – in your timeline, nothing has happened to change history at all!

Taken to its logical conclusion, this view of reality argues that we have complete control over our destiny, because literally anything is possible, and happens somewhere among the infinite array of parallel universes. All we have to do is find a way to travel across the time barrier, not forwards or backwards but *sideways* in time. It is, of course, much easier said than done; but if physical time travel remains at the very least an unlikely prospect for us, there remains the intriguing possibility that dreams, ghosts and other phenomena classified as paranormal experiences could be just as well – perhaps better – explained in terms of information somehow leaking into our world from parallel worlds of time as by direct communication, involving time travel, from the future or past of our own timeline.

#### An absurd illusion

One of the most startling philosophical theories sees *everything* as being in the mind. Sir Fred Hoyle, an eminent astronomer who has a penchant for speculation and science fiction, mentioned this idea in a serious scientific book, *Ten faces of the Universe*, and elaborated on the theme in his science-fiction novel *October the first is too late*. 'Time like an ever-rolling stream bears all his sons away' – the image of time conveyed by the famous words of the ninth psalm – is 'a grotesque and absurd illusion'. In fact, all the events that we imagine making up the flow of time – as well as all other imaginable events – exist in a kind of infinite sorting office, with each



Above: Rod Taylor stars in the 1960 MGM film *The time machine*, based on the novel by H. G. Wells. Such stories raise an exciting question: could it be that mankind will one day be capable of building a working time machine?



event, or state, in its own pigeon hole. Hoyle goes on:

Suppose that in each of these states your own consciousness is included. As soon as a particular state is chosen, as soon as an imaginary office worker takes a look at the contents of a particular pigeon hole, you have the subjective consciousness of a particular moment, of what you call the present. Think of the clerk in an office taking a look, first at the contents of one pigeon hole, then at the contents of another. Suppose he does this, not in sequence,

but in any old order. What is the effect on your subjective consciousness? So far as the clerk himself is concerned, he's jumping about all over the place among the pigeon holes. So your consciousness jumps all over the place. But the strange thing is that your subjective impression is quite different. You have the impression of time as an ever-rolling stream.

We may all, in fact, be experiencing time travel, as well as travel between different possible universes – but, because one of the rules of the game is that the clerk in the office can look at only one pigeon hole at a time, we never know it.

True or not, theories such as these show that there is more to time than we may suppose – and that there are, philosophically speaking, ways round the paradoxes of time travel. And if there are ways round the paradoxes, there is no logical reason why it should not be possible one day to build a physical time machine.

*One scientist believes he has designed a time machine that will really work. See page 1534*

**Few precognitive dreams are as useful as those that give accurate descriptions of future winners at horse races – yet sometimes even non-gamblers have such dreams. ARCHIE ROY investigates this baffling phenomenon**

IT IS A COMMON BELIEF that no one can, or should, make money out of his or her paranormal abilities. Indeed many sensitives believe that, their talent being a gift from God, it would be immoral in the extreme to use it to further their own fortunes. If they did so, they say, the gift would be removed or, worse still, the fortune they acquired would bring with it tragedy and disaster.

H. E. Saltmarsh, the British psychical researcher, made a number of studies of ostensible precognition cases published in the *Proceedings and Journal* of the SPR. A careful, cautious and experienced researcher, Saltmarsh found it necessary to accept the reality of precognition. In his book *Foreknowledge* (1938) he gives, among other cases, two that he felt implied the pre-cognition of winners of horse races.

One of them involved a Mr John H. Williams, a Quaker, about 80 years of age, and a staunch opponent of gambling. On 31 May 1933, at 8.35 a.m., Mr Williams woke from a dream about the Derby. In the dream he had been listening to a running commentary on the race on radio. The commentator gave the names of the first four horses. Mr Williams remembered two of them, Hyperion and King Salmon.

The Derby was to be run that day at 2 p.m. Mr Williams told a neighbour whom he met on a bus that morning about his dream. He



Above: Dr Samuel Johnson (1709–1784), who said: 'By pretension to second sight no profit was ever sought or gained.' But this is not always the case – considerable sums have been won at the races (below) as a direct result of dreams

also told it to a business acquaintance.

That afternoon, although so strongly antagonistic towards gambling, he listened to the radio commentary on the race and heard his dream over again, the commentator using identical expressions and giving the same names.

Saltmarsh states that he corresponded with Mr Williams and the two men he had told his dream to that morning. They confirmed Williams's account.

Dame Edith Lyttleton, a member of the SPR and herself a gifted sensitive, collected a number of such cases in her book *Some cases of prediction* (1937), all but one of them sent to her by people who had heard a radio broadcast she made on precognition in 1934.

From the large number of letters she received, she selected some of the most promising for investigation. Every case in the collection was corroborated by at least one person, sometimes by two or three, who had heard of the prediction before fulfilment. Dame Edith stated: 'That some predictions are cases of definite precognition I personally have no doubt at all.'

Among these cases are no less than eight where the result of a horse race or a football match was predicted.

A Mr Freeman dreamed that he visited Lincoln and remained so long in Lincoln Cathedral that on arriving at the racecourse he feared he had missed the first race, the Lincoln Handicap. He was told that he had; it had been won by Outram. On waking Mr Freeman related his dream to some friends. This was in November and the list of entrants in the race was not published until

## The bookies' nightmare





Above: Hyperion, winner of the 1933 Derby. On 31 May – the night before the race took place – John H. Williams, a Quaker and a staunch opponent of betting, woke from a dream about the Derby. In the dream he had been listening to a running commentary about the race on the radio. The dream commentator gave the names of the first four horses. Mr Williams remembered only two of them: Hyperion and King Salmon. That afternoon, although he would not normally do so, he listened in to the radio commentary on the Derby and heard his dream over again, the commentator using identical expressions and giving the same names. Mr Williams had obviously not benefited from his dream and had no interest in, and indeed a strong objection to, horse racing – so why did he have that dream? Are many more precognitive dreams similarly wasted?

January of the following year. In March the race was won by Outram with rather long odds laid against it.

It is of course possible that such cases could be attributed to chance. G. N. M. Tyrrell has argued:

The number of dreams and impressions occurring to people is legion and among so vast a number there must be a few chance hits which taken alone would seem very striking. Those only are remembered while the rest are forgotten; and so you get a set of cases which you falsely imagine to be precognitive, but which are really only the cream of the coincidences which are due to natural chance.

This of course is a strong argument, often

put forward, and may account for a number of seemingly striking and ostensible pre-cognitions. But even Tyrrell – among other investigators – has pointed out that other factors must be taken into account. For example, in the literature there is a close correlation between the dream or impression that subsequently correlates with a future event and elements of extraordinary vividness and feelings accompanying that dream or impression. These features compel the percipient to do something about it, to tell his circle of friends, to take some action.

#### A run for his money

The following case, however, is one for which the corroborative evidence is quite remarkable. It concerns John Godley, later Lord Kilbracken, and it began on 8 March 1946 when he was an undergraduate at Balliol College, Oxford. This strange chapter in his life ended 12 years later.

Godley found that he could dream precognitively. Moreover, the subject matter of his precognitive dreams was the winners of horse races. The punters' dream – or the bookies' nightmare – seemed to have homed in on Godley.

On the night of 8 March, he dreamed that in Saturday's evening paper he read the racing results and noticed that two horses Bindal and Juladin had both won at starting prices of 7-1. Godley woke up. He went to a café in town where he met a friend, Richard Freeman. He told him of his dream, they looked at *The Times* and found that Bindal was running at Plumpton that afternoon. Later that morning, he found in the *Daily Express* that Juladin was running at Wetherby.

The undergraduate was now understandably excited. He told some of his friends, who placed bets. Godley himself backed

## Win some, lose some

J. H. Jung-Stilling, writer, physician and psychical researcher (right), told the story of Dr Christopher Knape who, in 1768, dreamed that he received the winning numbers of the State lottery. He bought some tickets and won some money. About eight years later the dream recurred – but unfortunately a noise woke him up and he was able to remember only the first two digits. Nevertheless he bought a few tickets and made 20 dollars.

A year later his dream returned. Encouraged by his earlier successes he felt he was on to a certainty. However, although the number did come up he won nothing: a short time before the draw his ticket money was returned, for all the tickets had been sold.



he	ambition with, of course, the exception of the Grand National.
NCE	7 Layalpur, 8 Broquart, 10 Perilous Record, 20 Introduction, Bankton, Rocket II., Costello, Tell Ada, Grey Hawk, King's Double, 1/21, 41, (Ancil.) Tote.—Win, 7s 3d.; Places, 3s. 6d. 10s 6d. 3s. 6d.
1: 1;	4.0 (2m. 'Chase).— <b>JULADIN</b> (Capt. Schofield) (A Jack) (5-2). 1: Tamarome (11-10, fav.). 2: St. Fechin (100-8), 3. Also: 10 Bypass, Clonbur, 100-8 Shillaly, 100-6 Aldeano, 25 Beau Ideal, Agile, Tetrose, Raffy, 81; 61. (Megginson.) Tote.—Win, 9s 6d.; Places, 2s. 9d. 2s. 3d. 3s. 6d.
Bar- III. pyful	4.30 (2m. Hurdles).— <b>GLENGRIGOR</b> (Mr J M Grigor) (J Morahan) (2-1, fav.). 1: Baskerville (9-4), 2: Invisible Fox (20-1), 3. Also: 5 Real Prince, 10 Sky Born, 20 Border Reiver, Prinney, Sergeant Pilot, Acre Valley, Strike-a-Light, Monageer, Sandham, Look Right, Mowell, Pride, Vandra, Harley Hill, Dixie II, Blue Archer, Irish Monarch, Prince Deneese, Fazah, Convalescent, Dasford, 61; 101. (F Armstrong.) Tote.—Win, 4s. 3d.; Places, 2s. 9d. 3s. 3d. £2 7s. Tote Double.—£13 17s. Racing was put back 30 min.
W.K. 1: Mar	<b>Plumpton</b>
DER Con- Also: Ving. (G	1.0 (2m. Hurdles).— <b>BINDAL</b> (Mr H Gannon) (T Reeves) (5-4 fav.). 1: Lochinvar (20-1), 2: Jack Sister (25-1), 3. Also: 4 The Hood, 9-2 Roman Flight, 100-8 Peter Owen, 20 Irish Peach, 25 Jane's Slipper, Danbury, Turkish Alliance, Alipore Polly, Blythe Venture, Brown Bob, Black Border, Goodwood, Arbitration, Warrior's Way, 81; 41. (Dines.) Tote.—Win, 5s.; Places, 2s. 6d., 7s. 6d. 16s. 6d.
PER tive) laim- tion, Holy ake.	1.30 (3m. 'Chase).— <b>SECOND</b> (C H Clifford) (R. Turnell) (4-wood (20-1), 2. Also: 4-7 Lunc 11-2 Blue Steel, 100-8 Sun (Pullen.) Tote.—Win, 9s. 9d.; Places £1 5s. 6d.

Above right: Lord Kilbracken (seen here with American film actress Jayne Mansfield) who, as John Godley, had an astonishing run of successful dream predictions about the outcome of races. It began on 8 March 1946 when he dreamed that he read the racing results and noticed that two horses, Bindal and Juladin, had both won their respective races at starting prices of 7-1. The next day he discovered that horses of those names were running and he backed them to win. They did (above), but at different odds from those he had dreamed. On 4 April he had a similar dream – and another win. And on 28 July of that year he dreamed he telephoned his bookmaker; he was told that Monumentor had won at 5-4. On waking he consulted the papers and discovered that the horse with the most similar name was Mentores. He backed it and it won at 6-4 (right). Godley's 'gift' stayed with him, on and off, for 12 years – then it left him abruptly, never to return (much to his chagrin).



Forbes, 8 st. (M. Beary), 2: <b>BRAMHALL PRINCE</b> , 4c, by His Highness—Caramak (Mr. W. Satinoff), 8 st. 4 lb. (K. Gethin), 3.
Also ran:—Safety Curtain, V.E. Day, Tuberose, (Whiteman, at Upper Lambourne.) 11s. 2d.
STARTING PRICES.—11 to 8 agst Irish Dance, 11 to 4 Safety Curtain, 4 to 1 Bramhall Prince, 5 to 1 Farman Hill, 10 to 1 Tuberose, 3 to 1 V.E. Day. Tote.—Win, 5s. 3d.; Places, 3s., 3s. 6d.
5.0 (5-3).— <b>MAIDEN PLATE</b> (1m. 3f.).
<b>MENTORES</b> , 5f. by Ximenes—Tormentil (Mr. F. N. Grel), 4yrs, 8 st. 12 lb. (K. Gethin), 1: <b>INTRUDER</b> , by William of Valence—Her Awakening (Mr. J. Worthington), 4yrs, 8 st. 12 lb. (M. Beary), 2: <b>COUP DE DIABLE</b> (Mrs. L. Montagu), 5yrs, 9 st. (T. Bartham), 3.
Also ran:—Daikiri, June Jinks, Skookum Joe, Michael Collins, Puck Star, Shaun, Mahli. (Champey.) N.R., 31.
STARTING PRICES.—6 to 4 agst Mentores, 7 to 2 Intruder, 4 to 1 Skookum Joe, 10 to 1 Coup de Diable, June Jinks, 25 to 1 others. Tote.—Win, 5s. 9d.; places, 3s., 2s. 9d., 3s. 6d.
<b>DAILY DOUBLE</b> .—SAXTON and IRISH DANCE: £37 12s.; 64 winning tickets.

both horses. Bindal won at 5-4. Godley put his winnings on Juladin, which in due course won its race.

Not unnaturally, the news spread through the undergraduate community. For a fortnight after the event many were the morning enquiries made of Godley as to whether he had had any racing dreams. Godley was worried. He suspected, probably with good reason, that if he did dream any more horse names and they did not win, he would never be forgiven by those friends and acquaintances who had put their shirts on them.

But it did happen again, on Thursday, 4 April 1946, when Godley was at home in Ireland. Again in his dream he was looking at a list of winners. The only horse he remembered was Tuberose. He told his family at breakfast. At that time, the family lived in such isolation that on a Thursday they would get Tuesday's edition of *The Times* and Wednesday's *Irish Times*. Godley telephoned the local postmistress, who checked the daily papers and found that a horse called Tuberose was running in the Grand National. The name seemed close enough

and he and members of his family backed it. The BBC news at 6 p.m. that day told them that Tuberose had won.

By now Godley took the matter seriously. He kept records of his dreams when he returned to Oxford, but it was only on 28 July 1946 that he dreamed that special sort of dream again. In it he telephoned his bookmaker from a telephone box in the Randolph Hotel in Oxford to ask him for the result of the last race. The dream was so vivid that Godley even felt how stuffy the box was. He was told that Monumentor had won at 5-4. Next morning he checked the runners. There was a horse named Mentores. He backed it. It won at 6-4.

The fourth time Godley had one of these dreams, a year later, he dreamed he was at a race meeting. He noticed not only that a horse had an easy win but also that it carried the colours of the Gaekwar of Baroda: not only that but he recognised the jockey, the Australian Edgar Britt. The next race found everyone shouting for the favourite – The Bogue. In fact the excited clamour woke Godley up.

In a fine state of excitement he went downstairs and consulted *The Times*. The Gaekwar of Baroda's horse – called Baroda Squadron – was being ridden by Edgar Britt at Lingfield that afternoon. In the next race the favourite was The Bogue.

Godley backed both horses. And also told a number of people, including his girlfriend Angelica Bohm, and his friend Kenneth Harris. He wrote a statement about his predictions, had it dated and witnessed by three people, took it to the post office where it was placed in an envelope – which, after sealing, was stamped by the postmaster with his official time stamp and locked up in the

post office safe. Both horses won.

Fame came to Godley as newspapers all over the world got hold of the story and, perhaps as a result, he was given the post of racing correspondent on the *Daily Mirror*. Predictably, he also became inundated with mail from those who hoped he would share his good fortune with them (or at least give them a few winners), those willing to pay him a percentage of their winnings for information, those seemingly in dire need, and those obviously of unsound mind.

His episodic and unpredictable gift stayed with him. On 29 October 1947 he dreamed of a horse called Claro. He backed it. It was unplaced. However, on 16 January 1949 he dreamed again of the racing results. On waking he recalled that one of the winners had been a horse called Timocrat. Godley backed it – and it won.

On 11 February of the same year, he dreamed of two winners, Monk's Mistake and Pretence. Pretence won – but Monk's Mistake lost.

Nine years later, Godley dreamed that a horse called What Man? won the Grand

Below: Mr What wins the 1958 Grand National, the most popular British Classic (bottom). Godley had dreamed that a horse called What Man? had won the race; he chose the horse with the nearest name – and won the largest sum of money since he had become a dream punter

National. He backed the horse with the most similar name – Mr What – and won the largest amount of money in his career as a dream punter.

Godley's astonishing case is supported by a large number of testimonies. Many of his predictions were told to his fellow undergraduates before the races were begun; at least one was written down, witnessed and sealed away, namely the occasion of his double prediction of Baroda Squadron and The Brogue. He had no idea why he should have demonstrated such a gift in such a way except that he was mildly interested in horses and, like all impecunious students, had a strong motivation to back winners.

Even if we accept that his case, and some of the others described above, shows evidence of a precognitive faculty at work, the idea of people predicting and backing winners may still make us dismiss these cases as somehow 'wrong' or 'frivolous'. However, they too are worthy of study for in their effects clues regarding the mysterious nature of time and that of the human psyche may be ultimately discerned.

#### Further reading

- Edith Lyttleton, *Some cases of prediction*, G. Bell & Sons 1937
- Louisa Rhine, *The invisible picture*, Macfarland & Co. (Jefferson) 1981
- H.E. Saltmarsh, *Foreknowledge*, G. Bell & Sons 1938



# Trespassers will be...

**Mysterious disappearances, attacks by strange powers, UFO sightings and peculiar occult practices – all have occurred in or near the ancient Sussex site of Chanctonbury Ring. TOYNE NEWTON seeks the connection**

IS THERE an unidentified force associated with ancient pathways and ley lines whose energy is capable of killing people? This seems an outlandish suggestion, but if the other peculiar phenomena that occur in and around the ancient earthwork of Chanctonbury Ring in Sussex, England, are anything to go by, there may indeed be something in it.

Consider first the case of the Reverend Neil Snelling, former vicar of Clapham Church, who was last seen in August 1978, heading in the direction of the nearby Clapham Wood (see page 1085). In the summer of 1981 his remains at last came to light. They were discovered by a Canadian hiker named Mike Raine. He was flying to Africa the next day, but sent the local police the Rev. Snelling's wallet and a map of the woods showing where the body could be found.

From medical records and from the watch and ring worn by the corpse, positive identification was made of the dead vicar. At

Chanctonbury Ring, crowned with a stand of beech trees, is an ancient circular earthwork built on a hill. Once inside the ring, it is said, one feels 'in a strange and different world'

the inquest in August 1981 the coroner, Mr Mark Calvert-Lee, said it was impossible to tell how the Rev. Snelling had died, and an open verdict was returned. One of the odder aspects of the case was that searchers claimed to have gone over that area with a fine toothcomb – only, somehow, to miss the remains.

Equally unsettling was the disappearance of police constable Peter 'Nobby' Goldsmith in 1972. On 6 June he checked in as usual at Steyning police station, which is just 2 miles (3 kilometres) from Chanctonbury. An international athlete and former Guardsman, he was 6 feet 6 inches (2 metres) tall and was an extremely fit man. But later that day he went for a walk in the woods and was never seen alive again.

Intensive searches were made. At one time, it is recorded, 30 police, 10 tracker dogs, many horsemen and a helicopter were all deployed in an exhaustive search of the area. Every inch of land was gone over several times, but to no avail. Then, six months later, on 13 December 1972, his body was found near Chanctonbury Ring, not very far from where the Rev. Snelling had been found.

In 1981 a third person fell victim to the



mysterious area. On 14 November the corpse of Mrs Jillian Matthews, who had been reported missing on 28 September 1981, was found near Wiston House – once again, close to where the Rev. Neil Snelling's skeleton had been discovered. During the two months she was missing, several searches were made in the area. And when the beaters from the pheasant shoot at nearby Wiston Estate found the body, they insisted that they had been over the exact spot only two weeks before – and had seen nothing. The post-mortem failed to determine the cause of death, because the body had suffered an unusual degree of decomposition. Needless to say, no one knows quite why.

Is the pattern that seems to emerge from these deaths one of mere coincidence, or is there an unknown – and deadly – force at work? What attracted these three very different people – a retired vicar, a policeman and a housewife – to this particular area in the first place?

Many theories are being put forward – some of them quite bizarre. Because of the persistent UFO sightings recorded in the vicinity of Chanctonbury it has even been suggested that these people were snatched by aliens and later returned. But there is one common factor: it appears that each of them was suffering to some extent from depression.

Not only that but, according to local investigator Dave Stringer, all three bodies

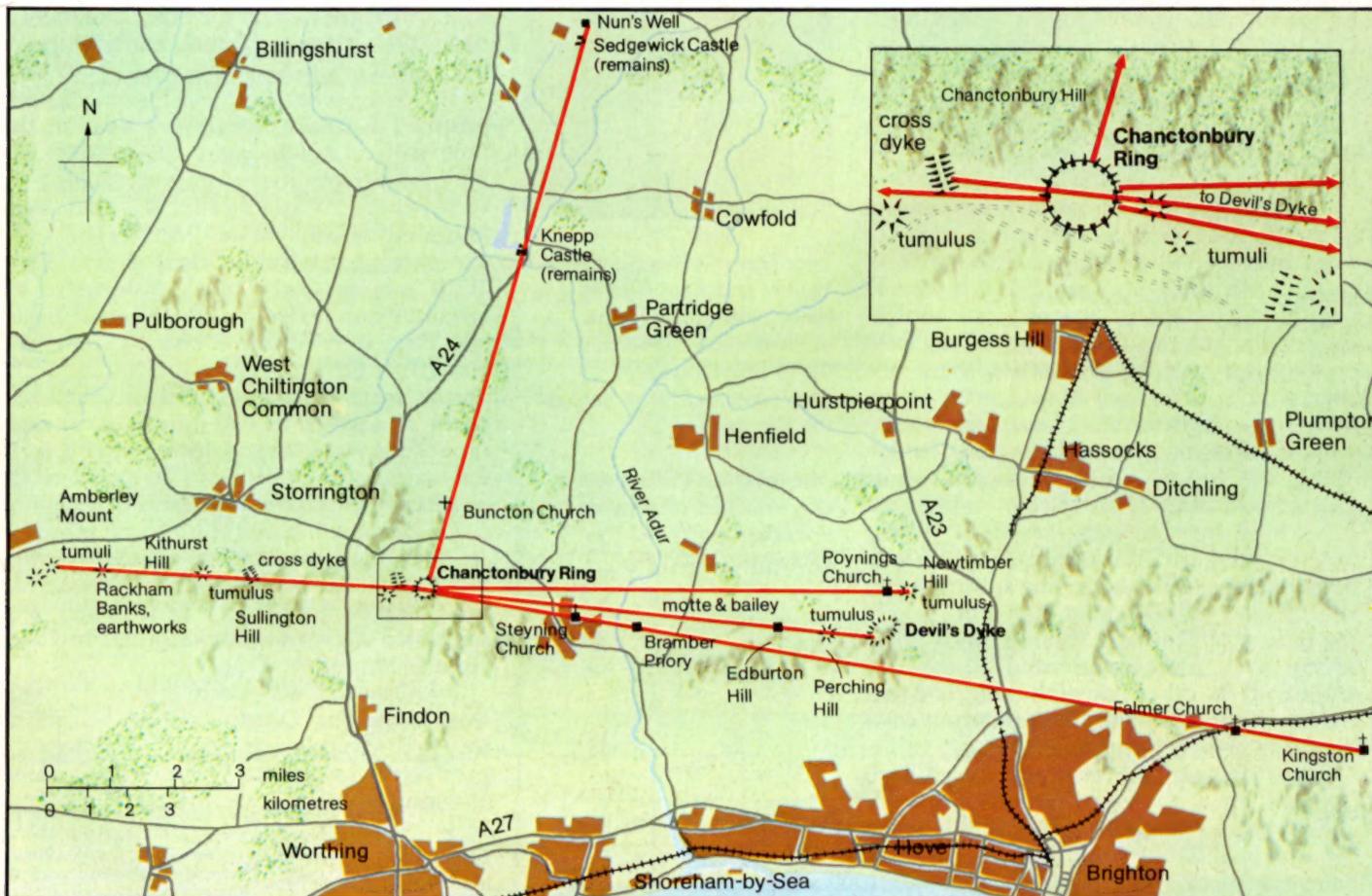
This map shows the locality of Chanctonbury Ring and a number of other sites where peculiar events have taken place. Local researcher Dave Stringer says that local ley lines show a link with missing persons and with UFO sightings in the area

were found on ley lines. The question, then, is whether there was some kind of mutual attraction between some force generated by the leys, and their state of mind. Could such a force be capable of exerting an evil influence, as a black stream does (see page 514)? Could it somehow take over an individual whose mind is temporarily aberrant? Certainly the area is one in which some very strange forces seem to have been at work, and many people have reported frightening symptoms and occurrences when in the vicinity of Chanctonbury Ring.

Chanctonbury is a hill on the South Downs approximately 700 feet (215 metres) above sea level, crowned with a ring of beech trees. It is steeped in occult history and has long been associated with witchcraft, unseen forces and, latterly, with UFO sightings.

On the outside the ring of trees seems perfectly normal, and yet on entering, one is immediately aware of an uncanny silence, for no birds or animals are found here. Dead and dying trees, some fenced off, add to the air of general decay, as if stepping from the outside to the inside of the ring has deposited one in a strange and different world.

Among the many people who have had terrifying experiences here is Dave Stringer, who runs the Southern Paranormal Investigation Group. One night in June 1966 he and a group of members decided to spend a night there. They arrived early at about 9.30 p.m. After a while a group of motorcyclists with





girl pillion riders turned up. Stringer's group had built a campfire in the centre of the ring, and the motorcyclists stayed chatting with them before moving off on their own to another part of the ring.

As the night was advancing Stringer thought it expedient to make a circle of protection, which he did with powdered chalk, incense and holy water. He and his group then sat within it. Shortly after midnight they heard a kind of crackling – distantly at first, but becoming louder, and presently accompanied by a gusting wind, although on looking outside the circle of trees it was still a clear calm summer's night, and there hadn't, until that moment, been the hint of a breeze.

This lasted for about half an hour, when at 45 minutes past midnight the group noticed a form moving around outside the circle of trees. Then suddenly they heard a woman wailing as if in pain, followed almost immediately by the cry of a baby. This went on for over half an hour, then there was silence. The form, which had been constantly encircling the trees, was no longer to be seen. Until 2 a.m. there was a period of quiet. Then the group heard a church organ playing and some form of chanting. At the same time they all complained of feeling 'intense pressure', but they managed not to panic. After a while the feeling subsided, but shortly after this, at about 2.30 a.m., one of the motorcyclists came running up to them saying they had experienced 'something really evil' the other side of the ring, and that the others 'were petrified'. The motorcyclists then promptly left the area.

Dave Stringer and his group stayed until daylight, but all said they felt extreme aches and pains and headaches. It was only when they got outside the circle of trees that these pains left them.



Top: Dave Stringer, Charles Walker and Paul Glover, who have investigated – and experienced – some of the weird phenomena at Chanctonbury, seen here on the site itself

Above: Dave Wills, who was knocked over by an unknown force at Chanctonbury

Among other groups who have kept an all-night vigil at this mysterious site is the Sussex Sky Watchers, a UFO research group. On 15 June 1968, in the early hours of Sunday morning, one of their members was walking around inside the ring of trees when he suddenly fell to the ground screaming for help, having lost the use of his limbs. On running to his aid, his companions experienced a similar form of paralysis, as if they had all suddenly been hit by a force that robbed them of the use of their arms and legs. Fortunately within a few minutes everyone recovered, and there were no ill effects.

### An unexpected levitation

Another all-night vigil was led by Charles Walker, who has made an extensive study of Chanctonbury Ring. On 25 August 1974, he and three other members of the Ghost and Psychic Investigation Group were walking inside the ring of trees at approximately 11 p.m. when one member – William Lincoln – was levitated by a force that took him some 5 feet (1.5 metres) into the air, where he hung suspended for about 60 seconds before being 'released' and crashing back to the ground.

During this terrifying experience he was pleading with the unseen force and crying: 'No more! No more!' Lincoln's back was hurt when the brief period of levitation ceased and he was so badly shaken he felt unable to talk about the happening afterwards, beyond refusing to go back to Chanctonbury ever again. The whole episode was witnessed by the other members of the group – Charles Walker, Dave Wills and Richard Walker.

In September 1979 Charles Walker returned to make a further investigation, this time with Dave Stringer, Dave Wills and Paul Glover. As they were approaching the spot where William Lincoln had been levitated – and where the others had experienced paralysis of their limbs – Dave Wills was suddenly knocked down to the ground by an invisible force. While Charles and Paul were endeavouring to calm him, Dave Stringer was looking for the crucifix he always wore around his neck attached to a chain, and which he had missed at the same time Wills was knocked down. After searching for a few minutes, Dave Stringer saw the crucifix on the ground. When he picked it up, it was burning hot as if it had been placed in an open fire. He also noticed that the link fixing it to the chain around his neck had been twisted and broken as if it had been wrenched off, yet none of the others had been close to him at the time.

So, *something* very peculiar seems to be at work in the ring. Does it have any bearing on the three unexplained deaths? And does the persistent local UFO phenomenon have anything to do with the mystery?

*On page 1538: UFO sightings at Chanctonbury and the occult connection*

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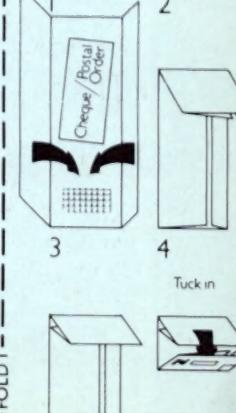
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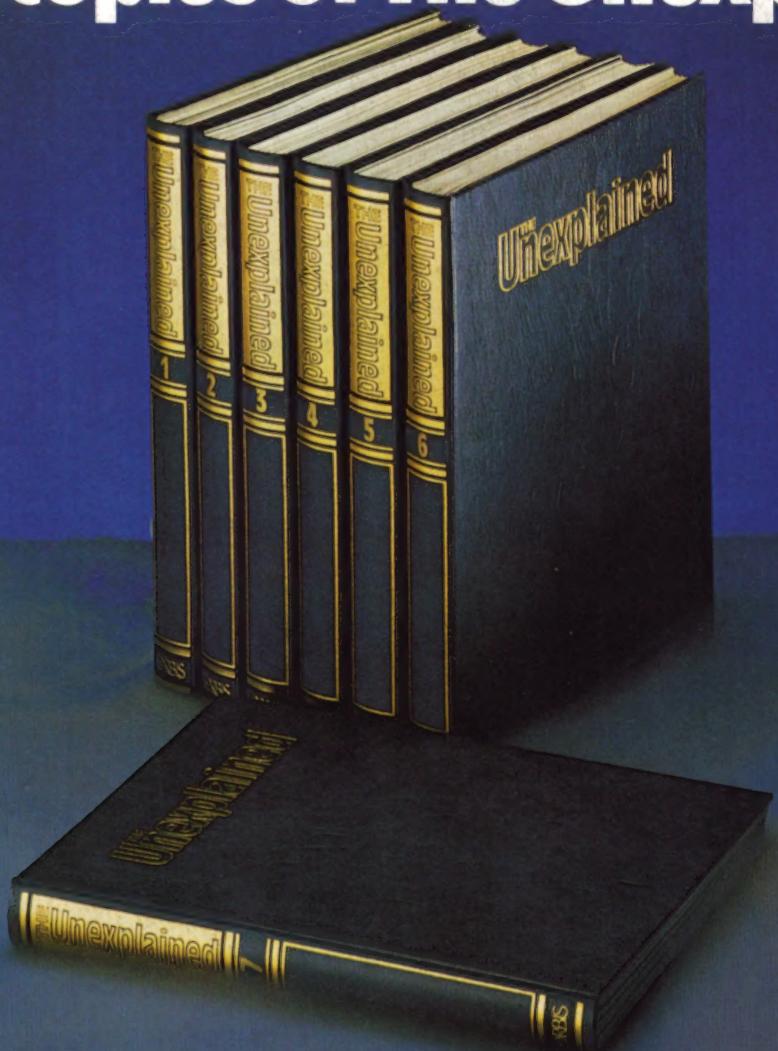
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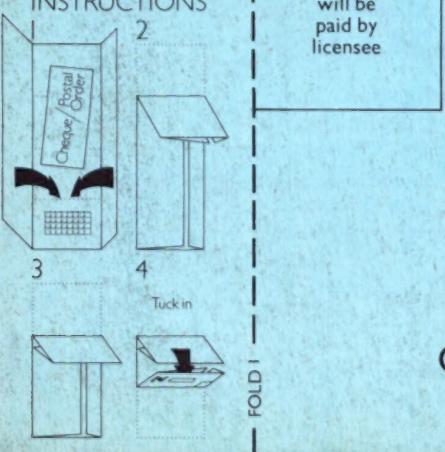
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